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Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Appropriation for 2013/14	$492,622,000
Expenditure for 2013/14	$491,899,700
Unencumbered balance for 2013/14	$722,300
Appropriation for 2014/15	$509,554,400
Projected expenditure for 2014/15[a]	$509,554,200
Estimated underexpenditure for 2014/15[a]	$200
Proposal submitted by the Secretary-General for 2015/16	$517,553,200
Recommendation of the Advisory Committee for 2015/16	$514,059,300

[a] Estimates as at 31 January 2015.

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I. Introduction

1. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraphs 23, 36 and 37 below would entail a reduction of $3,493,900 in the proposed budget for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016. The Committee has made recommendations and observations on specific issues, where appropriate, in the paragraphs below.

2. During its consideration of the financing of UNIFIL, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 27 April 2015. The documents reviewed and those used for background by the Committee are listed at the end of the present report. The detailed comments and recommendations of the Committee on the findings of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 and on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations can be found in its forthcoming related reports (A/69/838 and A/69/839, respectively).

II. Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014

3. In its resolution 67/279, the General Assembly appropriated an amount of $492,622,000 gross ($481,465,000 net) for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014. The total amount has been assessed on Member States. Expenditure for the period totalled $491,899,700 gross ($478,924,200 net). The resulting unencumbered balance of $722,300, in gross terms, represents 0.1 per cent of the appropriation.

4. A detailed analysis of variances is provided in section IV of the performance report for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 (A/69/606). Lower requirements were attributable mainly to:

(a) Military contingents ($8,245,700 or 2.7 per cent), owing to the lower actual average deployment compared with the level budgeted, resulting in an actual average vacancy rate of 30.9 per cent compared with the budgeted rate of 26.5 per cent. This was partly offset by additional requirements for the repatriation of two contingent units;

(b) International staff ($5,484,700 or 8.7 per cent), owing primarily to the higher-than-budgeted actual average vacancy rate of 13.4 per cent compared with 5 per cent, resulting from the anticipated reduction in posts owing to the implementation of recommendations of the civilian staffing review;

(c) Facilities and infrastructure ($3,229,600 or 11.8 per cent), owing to reduced requirements for the acquisition of prefabricated facilities as a result of the closure of two positions and the restructuring of three positions; reduced requirements for petrol, oil and lubricants resulting from their lower actual cost; reduced requirements for field defence supplies owing to lower military contingent personnel deployment; and reduced requirements for spare parts;

(d) Communications ($2,288,600 or 36.3 per cent), resulting from the non-requirement for transponder charges and the higher recovery of telephone charges for private calls (see A/69/606, paras. 32, 33, 37 and 41).

5. The lower requirements were partly offset by higher requirements under:

(a) National staff ($12,863,100 or 38.6 per cent), owing mainly to the higher actual grade levels than those budgeted, common staff costs in respect of national staff and indemnity payments for staff whose appointments were terminated in accordance with recommendations of the civilian staffing review. In this connection, the Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that termination indemnities totalling $1,556,318 were paid in respect of 25 national staff whose posts had been abolished and whose appointments had been terminated. Annual leave commutation in respect of staff separating from service amounted to $583,459;

(b) Naval transportation ($4,860,300 or 13 per cent), owing to the settlement of outstanding charges relating to previous periods for the rental and operation of vessels for the Maritime Task Force, as well as rental and operations of 10 vessels for the full 12-month period compared with the budgeted operation of 9 vessels for 10 months (ibid., paras. 34 and 40) (see also paras. 40 and 41 below).

6. Upon enquiry as to the actions taken by UNIFIL to address the findings of the Board of Auditors relating to the Force for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 (A/69/5 (Vol. II), chap. II), the Advisory Committee was informed of the actions taken by the Force in the following three areas:

(a) Contracts: To address the reported lack of oversight on high-value contracts, the Force is reviewing the structure and functions of the Contract Management Unit with a view to strengthening its functions. UNIFIL also clarified that it is undertaking efforts to monitor payments and to avail itself of prompt payment discounts. In this connection, the Committee notes that the Secretary-General's budget report for 2015/16 (A/69/731 and Corr.1) includes a proposal to strengthen this Unit through the conversion of one Contracts Management Officer post (Field Service) to the P-4 level (see also paragraph 31 below);

(b) Management of fuel: The Force confirmed that corrective action had been taken during the visit of the Board to UNIFIL to correctly reflect the appropriate fuel reserve stock levels;

(c) Human resources management: With respect to disparities noted by the Board between the Force's civilian staff listings and the electronic performance system's record of appraisals, UNIFIL responded that comparisons of these two sets of data may be misleading since the appraisal system includes staff holding fixed-term, continuing and permanent contracts only. The Board was informed that efforts to upload special performance reports into this system for all other staff are under discussion with United Nations Headquarters.

7. In his report, the Secretary-General also states that Umoja Foundation was launched in UNIFIL in July 2013. He further states that with the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and Umoja, 15 international posts and 25 national posts were abolished in May and June 2014 (A/69/606, Summary). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that these post reductions were a direct result of the civilian staffing review conducted in 2013. The Committee was further informed that it was still too early to assess the full impact

that Umoja and IPSAS might have on the business processes and staffing. **The Advisory Committee notes that UNIFIL is one of the first missions to factor the impact of Umoja and IPSAS into its staffing proposals. In general, the Committee considers that other missions should identify efficiencies, wherever possible, arising from the implementation of these two initiatives, among others, also recalling the expectations of the General Assembly with respect to clear, transparent benefits realization and reporting on both these projects (see Assembly resolutions 69/274, sect. VI, para. 13 and 69/262, para. 5).**

8. The comments of the Advisory Committee on the information presented in the performance report on individual objects of expenditure can be found, where relevant, in the discussion of the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

III. Information on performance for the current period

9. The Advisory Committee was informed that as at 31 January 2015, a total of $7,412,909,000 had been assessed on Member States in respect of UNIFIL since its inception. Payments received as at the same date amounted to $7,376,359,000, leaving an outstanding balance of $36,550,000. The Committee notes that the cash position of UNIFIL was $444,100,000 as at 2 March 2015; which covers the three-month operating cash reserve of $59,288,000, leaving $384,812,000 in remaining cash.

10. The Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 31 December 2014, the outstanding balance for contingent-owned equipment amounted to $29,227,000.

11. As at 31 December 2014, the amount of $22,662,000 had been paid in respect of 525 claims for death and disability since the inception of the Force. The Committee was informed that there was one outstanding claim at that time. **The Advisory Committee expects that this outstanding claim will be settled expeditiously.**

12. Regarding incumbency, the Advisory Committee was informed that as at 31 January 2015, the incumbency rates for UNIFIL were as follows:

Category	*Authorized*[a]	*Encumbered*	*Vacancy rate (percentage)*
Military and police personnel			
Military contingents	15 000	10 147	32.4
Civilian personnel			
International staff	313	282	9.9
National Professional Officers	35	29	17.1
National General Service	618	577	6.6

[a] Represents the highest authorized strength for the period 2014/15.

13. The Advisory Committee was provided with information on current and projected expenditures for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. Expenditure for the period as at 31 January 2015 amounted to $312,373,000 (gross). The

Secretary-General projects full utilization of the appropriation of $509,554,400 by the end of the current period.

IV. Proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016

A. Mandate and planned results

14. The mandate of UNIFIL was established by the Security Council in its resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978), expanded in its resolution 1701 (2006) and extended in subsequent resolutions of the Council. The most recent extension of the mandate, to 31 August 2015, was authorized by the Council in its resolution 2172 (2014).

15. The Force's planning assumptions and mission support initiatives for the 2015/16 period are described in paragraphs 6 to 13 of the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed budget for 2015/16 (A/69/731 and Corr.1). In line with the Force's mission plan, the main priorities are summarized as follows: (a) to continue efforts to be a credible and effective force for deterrence, prevention and deconfliction towards preserving the cessation of hostilities, as well as assisting the Lebanese Armed Forces in maintaining a stable and secure environment south of the Litani River; (b) to enhance liaison and coordination at the strategic level, in particular through the tripartite mechanism, in order to promote security arrangements and, to that end, promoting full respect for the Blue Line, including by furthering its visible marking; (c) to widen the scope of the Force's strategic partnership with the Lebanese Armed Forces, including by supporting capacity-building efforts; (d) to further involve the Government of Lebanon in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), in particular by seeking to increase its involvement in southern Lebanon; and (e) to maintain its maritime support for the Lebanese navy to prevent the unauthorized entry of arms or related material by sea into Lebanon (ibid., para. 6).

16. The UNIFIL support component will continue to provide the full range of support services to all Force components at 55 locations and at its main headquarters in Naqoura. This will include the continued operation of a main support route and through coastal waters using a commercially contracted vessel (ibid., para. 10). The report states that the Force will continue to seek efficiencies by: (a) replacing existing generators with new generators with hydraulic/electronic unit injection systems; (b) using the single commercial sea vessel for the rotation of troops; (c) reducing the acquisition of spare parts and consumables; (d) rationalizing engineering work including through the consolidation or handover of some 10 mission locations; (e) providing continued support to other entities in addition to regional support activities (see also para. 18 below); and (f) continuing to institutionalize Umoja and IPSAS (A/69/731, para. 12).

17. In connection with a civilian staffing review undertaken in September 2013 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/264, the report indicates that UNIFIL accelerated the implementation of the review in the 2014/15 period through a net reduction of 80 posts (39 international and 41 national) and the nationalization of 13 international posts. A net reduction of 56 posts (38 international and 18 national) and the nationalization of 28 posts are proposed in the 2015/16 budget. The

Committee's detailed observations and recommendations on the related staffing proposals are contained in paragraphs 24 to 32 below.

B. Regional mission cooperation

18. The report of the Secretary-General states that the Force will maintain its close cooperation and provide support, within available resources, to the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, (ibid., paras. 12 (e) and 14). Similarly, ongoing support will be provided, within available resources, to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria (ibid., para. 12 (e)). In addition, UNIFIL will continue to be a regional service provider in the areas of information and communication technology services, conduct and discipline, HIV/AIDS and oversight for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy (ibid., para. 14). According to the report, UNIFIL will also continue to coordinate the regional training network and, in this regard, identify opportunities for participation, cost-sharing arrangements and other means of collaboration (ibid., para. 15).

C. Resource requirements

19. The proposed budget for UNIFIL for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, which provides for the deployment of 15,000 military contingent personnel, 275 international staff and 635 national staff, amounts to $517,553,200 gross, representing an increase of $7,998,800, or 1.6 per cent in gross terms, compared with the appropriation of $509,554,400 for 2014/15. The overall increase is attributable primarily to increases in the fixed troop-cost and contingent-owned equipment reimbursement rates and troop rotation costs, including requirements for a mechanized infantry battalion and the deployment of a contingent engineering company that was not included in the 2014/15 budget. In addition, there is an increase in national staff costs based on current expenditure patterns (ibid., para. 13). Detailed information on the financial resources requested and an analysis of variances is provided in sections II and IV of the Secretary-General's budget report.

1. Military contingent personnel

Category	*Authorized 2014/15*[a]	*Proposed 2015/16*	*Variance*
Military and police personnel			
Military contingents	15 000	15 000	–

[a] Represents the highest authorized/proposed strength.

20. The proposed budget for military contingent personnel for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 amounts to $336,875,400, an increase of $12,174,800, or 3.7 per cent, compared with the apportionment for 2014/15. The increased requirements are attributable primarily to: (a) higher costs for contingent-owned

equipment and major equipment resulting from the deployment of an engineering company and an infantry battalion; (b) higher troop cost reimbursement as established by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/281; and (c) travel on emplacement, rotation and repatriation based on actual deployment and the most recent expenditure patterns (ibid., para. 53).

21. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the requested resources for military contingents.**

2. Civilian personnel

Category	*Approved 2014/15*[a]	*Proposed 2015/16*[a]	*Variance*
Civilian personnel			
International staff	313	275	(38)
National Professional Officers	35	51	16
National General Service	618	584	(34)

[a] Represents the highest authorized strength for the period 2014/15.

22. The proposed budget for civilian personnel for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 amounts to $97,433,200, an increase of $2,751,800, or 2.9 per cent, compared with the apportionment for 2014/15. The increased requirements under civilian personnel for 2015/16 are mainly attributable to the conversion of 28 international posts to national posts and to the annual salary step increases for national staff (ibid., paras. 54 and 55). In addition, in response to a query concerning the increase in staff costs despite the projected decrease in posts, the Advisory Committee was informed that additional cost drivers for staff costs related to the impact of a new salary scale for international staff effective 1 January 2015 as well as the payment of termination indemnities and commutation of annual leave for staff whose posts would be abolished.

23. The proposed vacancy rates applied to the cost estimates for civilian personnel for 2015/16 are as follows: 5 per cent for international staff, 10 per cent for National Professional Officers and 3 per cent for national General Service staff, compared with the approved rates of 5 per cent, 10 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively, for the current period. According to the Secretary-General, the proposed vacancy factors take into account the most recent incumbency patterns, as well as the proposed net reduction of 56 posts in the forthcoming financial period (ibid., para. 42). The Advisory Committee was informed that the actual average vacancy rates for the period from 1 July 2014 to 31 January 2015 were 10.4 per cent for international staff, 17.6 per cent for National Professional Officers and 6.5 per cent for national General Service. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the difference between the most recent actual average rates and the rates used for the purposes of the 2015/16 budget proposal was due to the fact that there would be fewer vacancies in the mission resulting from the related net reduction of 38 international and 18 national posts, if approved, as of 1 July 2015. The Committee was also informed that the vacancy rate for national staff would be partially offset by the proposed creation of 28 national posts resulting from the nationalization of international posts. The Committee was provided with updated actual vacancy rates as at 28 February 2015, namely, 10 per cent for international posts, 17 per cent for National Professional Officers and 7 per cent for national General Service posts. **Taking these**

actual vacancy rates into account, the Advisory Committee therefore recommends that, for the 2015/16 period, a vacancy rate of 10 per cent be applied in respect of international staff posts and a vacancy rate of 15 per cent in respect of National Professional Officer posts. The Committee concurs with the vacancy rate proposed for national General Service posts. Any related operational costs should be adjusted as appropriate.

Implementation of the outcome of the civilian staffing review

24. As mentioned in paragraph 17 above, a civilian staffing review was conducted at UNIFIL in September 2013. The review recommended the reduction of 146 posts and the nationalization of 52 posts by 30 June 2017. The approved budget for the period 2014/15 reflects a net reduction of 80 posts and the nationalization of 13 international posts from the prior period. For 2015/16, a second round of changes is now proposed, with a net reduction of 56 posts (38 international and 18 national) and the nationalization of 28 international posts (ibid., para. 11).

25. The Advisory Committee notes, as indicated in paragraph 26 of the budget report, that the most significant staffing change relates to the proposed abolishment of 48 engineering posts, including 44 national posts, with the related functions of the posts to be outsourced (see also A/69/731, table 17). In this connection, the Committee sought clarifications concerning the proposed outsourcing of these functions. The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that this proposal, initially recommended by the civilian staffing review and endorsed by a steering committee of Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Field Support senior management at Headquarters, would maximize potential cost savings for UNIFIL. The Committee was also informed that the estimated salary and related staff costs of these 48 posts at full incumbency would amount to $3.7 million for 2015/16. The Committee notes that any savings realized would be offset by the cost of the contractual arrangements to be put in place to perform related functions by an external vendor. In this connection, the Committee also notes that there is an increase of $1.29 million in the proposed requirements for maintenance services for 2015/16, which is attributed to the decision to outsource these services.

26. Upon further enquiry, the Committee was informed that a reliable cost comparison between the existing in-house staffing arrangements and the outsourcing proposal was not yet available. According to the Secretary-General, an initial assessment indicated that changes in the security and economic conditions in Lebanon since the civilian staffing review was undertaken, with added safety-related risks and limitations on the movement of local citizens, might have an impact on the ability of potential new vendors to support UNIFIL with the required services. The Committee was informed, however, that alternatives were being developed to allow the mission to maintain needed operations within the proposed staffing level contained in the budget report. According to the Secretary-General, these options might include making some modifications to the original outsourcing proposal, further streamlining of the maintenance functions in question (with retention of an in-house capacity in full or in part) and seeking efficiencies through staff reductions elsewhere in the mission.

27. **Given that the alternatives to the original outsourcing proposal had not been fully developed at the time of the Advisory Committee's review of the budget proposal, the Committee expects that this information will be made**

available to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the UNIFIL budget proposal for 2015/16. The Committee is of the view that the Assembly should be provided with the necessary assurances by the Secretary-General that any endorsement of the proposed staffing levels contained in the budget report will not have a detrimental effect on the provision of essential maintenance support services to the different mission components.

Posts

28. Paragraphs 19 to 38 of the budget report set out the staffing changes proposed under each office, a summary of which is presented in the annex to the present report. The proposed staffing changes would result in a net reduction of 56 posts. As mentioned above, the majority of the proposed abolishments (44 national General Service posts and 4 Field Service posts) relate to the proposed outsourcing of the facilities maintenance functions. These posts are currently located within the Engineering Services Section of Component 2: support. In addition, one Water and Sanitation Technician (Field Service) and one Heavy Plant Operator (national General Service) are proposed for abolishment in the same section. An additional three Field Service posts are proposed for abolishment in the Regional Information and Communication Technology Services, one Administrative Assistant post in the Security Section (Field Service) and two Finance and Budget Assistant posts (one Field Service and one national General Service) in the Financial Management Section.

29. The other significant set of staffing proposals relates to the proposed nationalization of 2 P-3 and 26 Field Service posts to 17 National Professional Officer and 11 national General Service posts across a range of different functions and units within UNIFIL. The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the proposed nationalization of these posts would lead to an estimated cost reduction of $1.9 million in 2015/16 (excluding one-time termination indemnities and annual leave commutations).

30. In this connection, the Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the proposed conversions from international to national posts are a direct result of the civilian staffing review, which had indicated that there was an excellent pool of talent available to UNIFIL in the local labour market. The review also highlighted the need for a comprehensive capacity development programme and encouraged UNIFIL to increase the supervisory role performed by locally recruited staff through the nationalization of such posts. **The Advisory Committee recalls again paragraph 23 of General Assembly resolution 66/264, in which the Assembly underlined the importance of the Secretary-General comprehensively reviewing the civilian staffing requirements for each peacekeeping mission, with particular attention to the feasibility of nationalizing Field Service posts. The Committee therefore supports the efforts of UNIFIL in this regard.**

31. The budget report also includes a proposal to convert one post of Contracts Management Officer (Field Service) to the P-4 level in order to ensure full compliance with the various governing principles and procedures with respect to the effective management and oversight of UNIFIL contracts (A/69/731, para. 31). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that this was a direct response to the Board's recommendation that the Unit be enhanced to improve the level of monitoring of high-risk and high-value contracts.

32. Lastly, the staffing proposals also include proposed redeployments of four posts and reassignments of three posts between different sections within the mission. The Committee notes that in most cases, the justifications provided indicate that these proposals mostly correct structural anomalies resulting from the recent restructuring of the mission support component or an alignment of functions and posts to the revised organizational structure of UNIFIL.

33. The Committee also notes that, according to post-incumbency information provided to it in the context of its review of the overview report on peacekeeping operations (A/69/751), UNIFIL has no posts vacant for two years or longer.

34. **Subject to its observations and recommendations contained in paragraph 23 above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the requested resources for civilian personnel.**

3. Operational costs

(United States dollars)

	Approved 2014/2015	*Proposed 2015/16*	*Variance*
Operational costs	90 172 400	83 244 600	(6 927 800)

35. The proposed operational cost requirements for 2015/16 amount to $83,244,600, a decrease of $6,927,800, or 7.7 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2014/15. The decrease is attributable to: (a) facilities and infrastructure resulting from non-requirement of various items of equipment; (b) naval transportation owing to the deployment of seven Maritime Task Force vessels for 12 months in 2015/16, compared with eight vessels for 9 months in 2014/15; and (c) air transportation owing to the optimized use of air assets and lower rental and operation costs. The variance is offset in part by additional requirements for other supplies, services and equipment resulting from the freight of all acquisitions which, based on the new Umoja chart of accounts, is now disclosed under this object of expenditure (A/69/731, paras. 58, 60, 61 and 64).

Cost apportionment

36. The Committee's report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations includes observations and recommendations with respect to those costs that the Secretary-General proposes to be apportioned to individual mission budgets, including applications developed by the Office of Information and Communications Technology and deployed to the field and the additional requirements relating to the supply chain management initiative (A/69/839). **The Committee does not concur with the Secretary-General's proposal to charge the missions for the entirety of these costs and recommends that the proposed resource requirements in individual missions be reduced accordingly.** The relevant table in the cross-cutting report contains a summary of the Committee's recommended reductions by mission. **In the case of UNIFIL, this recommendation would result in a reduction of $105,200 from the requirements for information technology, $94,400 for consultancy services and $141,600 for official travel respectively.** Related upward adjustments to the resource requirements included in the support account for peacekeeping operations are in the Committee's report on this subject (A/69/860).

Official travel

37. The proposed budget includes a request of $1,143,000 for official travel, representing an increase of $228,900 (or 25 per cent) from the apportionment of $914,100 for 2014/15. Upon enquiry, the Committee was provided with a breakdown for trips planned outside the mission area (non-training) in 2015/16. The Committee notes that a number of trips to New York are planned, including by multiple travellers for the same meeting. **The Advisory Committee stresses that UNIFIL should increase its efforts to consolidate trips to the same destination and to minimize the number of travellers for any given trip. The Committee is of the view that missions should, wherever feasible, seek alternative means of communication and expects related reductions in this connection to official travel requirements, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 65/268 and 67/254 (see also A/68/782, para. 202). The Committee therefore recommends a 5 per cent reduction in the proposed resources for out-of-mission non-training travel in the 2015/16 period, in addition to the reduction of $141,600 for official travel recommended in paragraph 36 above.**

38. **Furthermore, the Advisory Committee is of the view that measures such as consolidation of trips and alternative means of communication will not only contribute to a more efficient use of financial resources but also reduce the disruptive effect that frequent or extended absences from missions can have on the day-to-day work of staff and on effective programme delivery (see also A/68/782, para. 199).**

Ground transportation

39. The Committee was provided with detailed information concerning the holdings of light passenger vehicles along with the comparison with the standard ratios for vehicle allocation as stipulated by the Standard Cost and Ratio Manual. UNIFIL forecasts that there will be 149 light vehicles in use as of 30 June 2016 for allocation to 323 international personnel, after the application of a delayed deployment factor. The Committee notes that the holdings are above the standard ratios established for most categories of international civilian personnel. **The Committee is of the view that the mission should align vehicle holdings with the standard ratios expeditiously.**

Naval transportation

40. The estimated requirements for naval transportation for the 2015/16 period amount to $31,786,900, representing a decrease of $2,418,800 (or 7.1 per cent) from the apportionment for the current period. The decrease is attributed to the projected deployment of the seven vessels and two aircraft for the Maritime Task Force in 2015/16 for 12 months, compared with eight vessels and two aircraft for 9 months in 2014/15 (A/69/731, para. 61). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the proposal for 2015/16 was in line with the concept of operations based on a ship-to-task analysis. The Maritime Task Force requires five corvettes and two offshore patrol boats to meet the operational requirements for the implementation of the UNIFIL mandate. The Committee was also provided with a breakdown, upon request, of the actual expenditures relating to the Maritime Task Force since the 2010/11 financial period, which is reflected in the table below.

Actual Maritime Task Force expenditures in the financial periods from 2010/11 to 2013/14

(United States dollars)

Type of vessel	*2010/11*	*2011/12*	*2012/13*	*2013/14*
Corvette	4 928 070	5 945 478	5 850 096	5 850 096
Corvette with helicopter	4 330 400	2 955 250	3 792 125	2 812 080
Fast patrol boat	6 916 660	5 223 670	8 247 900	8 754 350
Frigate	12 590 562	17 269 258	21 917 748	22 504 500
Mine hunter	903 442	1 293 252		
Support fast patrol boat	3 707 073	3 371 808	316 107	
Total	**33 376 207**	**36 058 716**	**40 123 976**	**39 921 026**

41. The Committee also notes that the Force has a commercial passenger-car ferry at its disposal for the transportation of military personnel, support vehicles and related cargo. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the current contractual arrangements provide for the provision of a ferry on a time-charter basis rather than on a per-voyage basis. The current fixed rate for the provision of the ferry is $5,800 per day, with the budgeted contractual cost of $2,117,000 per annum. Taking into account the additional costs of port sailing fees and war risk insurance, the total budgeted cost for 2014/15 for the provision of this vessel is $2,249,800 excluding fuel costs. The Committee was also informed that the ferry was in operation for a total of 90 days over the course of 2013/14. UNIFIL clarified that the vessel is used primarily for troop rotation, which happens mainly each autumn and spring owing to the specific rotation cycle for the mission. In addition, weather conditions have an impact on the operability of the ferry. The mission also indicated that the vessel is the only alternate route for resupply and evacuation of personnel in the case of unrest or other security threats. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that every effort should be undertaken to ensure that the contractual terms for the provision of the passenger-car ferry to UNIFIL are the most cost-effective and beneficial to the mission. The Committee looks forward to receiving additional information on this subject in the Force's next budget submission of the Secretary-General.**

42. **Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 23, 36 and 37 above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the requested resources for operational costs.**

Other matters

43. In its previous report on UNIFIL, the Committee commended the efforts of the Force in the provision of energy through the use of solar power and thereby reducing its reliance on generators and minimizing the related fuel usage and costs (A/68/782/Add.12). In the performance report for 2013/14, UNIFIL provided additional information relating to its production of renewable energy through its solar energy model based on decentralized production at 12 solar farms, thus producing energy for the mission (A/69/606, para. 20). The report also contains details relating to the mission's efforts to reduce its environmental footprint, including water conservation measures and awareness training. The Force had also

completed construction of six sludge disposal tanks to improve the handling and treatment of wastewater (ibid., para. 18). In the budget report for 2015/16, the Force indicates that it foresees the replacement of generators with new, more fuel-efficient hydraulic injection systems (A/69/731, paras. 12 (a) and 40). **The Committee stresses its support for the introduction of new technologies and practices in the pursuit of efficiency gains and better environmental management. It also expects that such measures will be replicated in other missions, wherever possible.**

V. Conclusions

44. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNIFIL for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 are contained in paragraph 45 of the performance report (A/69/606). **The Advisory Committee recommends that the unencumbered balance of $722,300, as well as other income and adjustments in the amount of $9,302,300, be credited to Member States.**

45. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNIFIL for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 are set out in paragraph 65 of the report on the proposed budget (A/69/731). **Taking into account its recommendations in paragraphs 23, 36 and 37 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Assembly appropriate an amount of $514,059,300 for the maintenance of the Force for the 12-month period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNIFIL beyond 31 August 2015.**

Documentation

- Budget performance of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 (A/69/606)
- Budget for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 (A/69/731)
- Financial report and audited financial statements for the 12-month period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 and report of the Board of Auditors on United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/69/5 (Vol. II))
- Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the budget performance for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (A/68/782/Add.12)
- General Assembly resolution 68/292 on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
- Security Council resolutions 425 (1978), 426 (1978), 1701 (2006), and 2172 (2014)

Annex

Summary of proposed post changes in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for 2015/16

Office Section Unit	*Number*	*Level*	*Functional title*	*Post action*	*From to*
Executive direction and management					
Office of the Head of Mission/Force Commander	-1	P-4	Best Practice Officer	Redeployed	To the Office of the Deputy Head of Mission
	-1	NGS	Team Assistant	Reassigned	Reassigned and reprofiled from Team Assistant to Research Assistant in the Office of the Deputy Head of Mission
	-2				
Component 1: Operations					
Office of the Deputy Head of Mission and Director of Political and Civil Affairs	+1	P-4	Best Practice Officer	Redeployed	From the Office of the Head of Mission/Force Commander
	+1	NGS	Research Assistant	Reassigned	From the Office of the Head of Mission/Force Commander
	+2				
Joint Misston Analysis Centre	-1	P-3	Information Analyst	Converted	To NPO
	+1	NPO	Information Analyst	Converted	From P-3
	–				
HIV/AIDS Unit	+1	P-3	Deputy Chief Officer	Converted	From FS
	-1	FS	Human Resources Officer	Converted	To P-3
	–				
Component 2: Support					
Security Section	-1	FS	Administrative Assistant (Security)	Abolished	
	-4	FS	Security Officer	Converted	To NPO
	+2	NPO	Assistant Security Officer	Converted	From FS
	+2	NGS	Security Assistant	Converted	From FS
	-1				

Office Section Unit	*Number*	*Level*	*Functional title*	*Post action*	*From to*
Immediate Office of the Director of Mission Support	-2	FS	Administrative Assistant	Converted	To NGS
	+2	NGS	Administrative Assistant	Converted	From FS
	–				
Financial Management Section	-1	P-4	Finance and Budget Officer	Converted	To NPO
	+1	NPO	Finance and Budget Officer	Converted	From P-4
	-1	FS	Finance and Budget Assistant	Converted	To NPO
	+1	NPO	Finance and Budget Officer	Converted	From FS
	-1	FS	Finance and Budget Assistant	Abolished	
	-1	NGS	Finance and Budget Assistant	Abolished	
	-2				
Human Resources Management	-1	P-3	Administrative Officer	Converted	To NPO
	+1	NPO	Training Officer	Converted	From P-3
	-1	FS	Human Resources Officer	Converted	To NPO
	+1	NPO	Human Resources Officer	Converted	From FS
	-1	FS	Staff Development Assistant	Converted	To NPO
	+1	NPO	Human Resources Officer	Converted	From FS
	+1	NPO	Human Resources Officer	Converted	From NGS
	-1	NGS	Human Resources Assistant	Converted	To NPO
	–				
Office of the Deputy Director of Mission Support					
Office of the Deputy Director of Mission Support	-1	NGS	Welfare Assistant	Redeployed	To Medical Section
	+1	P-4	Contracts Management Officer	Converted	From FS
	-1	FS	Contracts Management Officer	Converted	To P-4
	-1				
Procurement Section	-1	P-3	Procurement Officer	Converted	To NPO
	+1	NPO	Procurement Officer	Converted	From P-3
	–				
Supply Chain Section	-1	FS	Material and Asset Assistant	Converted	To NPO
	+1	NPO	Supply Officer	Converted	From FS
	-1	FS	Transport Officer (Stores)	Converted	To NPO
	+1	NPO	Supply Officer	Converted	From FS
	-1	FS	Supply Assistant	Converted	To NGS
	+1	NGS	Supply Assistant	Converted	From FS
	-1	NGS	Property Management Assistant	Redeployed	To the Joint Logistics Operations Centre
	-1	NGS	Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning Technician	Redeployed	To Engineering Services Section

Office Section Unit	*Number*	*Level*	*Functional title*	*Post action*	*From to*
	+2	NGS	Supply Assistant	Reassigned	From Engineering Services Section
	–				
Medical Section	-1	FS	Nurse	Converted	To NGS
	+1	NGS	Nurse	Converted	From FS
	+1	NGS	Welfare Assistant	Redeployed	From the Office of the Deputy Director of Mission Support
	+1				
Transportation, Movement and Aviation Section					
Surface movements Operations and air	-1	FS	Transport Assistant	Converted	To NGS
	+1	NGS	Transport Assistant	Converted	From FS
	–				
Engineering Services Section	-1	FS	Water and Sanitation Technician	Abolished	
	-1	NGS	Heavy Plant Operator	Abolished	
	-1	FS	Engineering Technician (Generator)	Converted	To NPO
	+1	NPO	Engineering Technician (Generator)	Converted	From FS
	-1	FS	Electrician	Converted	To NPO
	+1	NPO	Electrician	Converted	From FS
	-1	FS	Engineering Assistant	Converted	To NPO
	+1	NPO	Engineering Assistant	Converted	From FS
	-2	NGS	Material and Assets Assistant	Reassigned	To Supply Chain Section
	+1	NGS	Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning Technician	Redeployed	From Supply Chain Section
	-1	FS	Facilities Management Assistant	Abolished	
	-3	FS	Engineering Technicians (Generator)	Abolished	
	-25	NGS	Facilities Management Assistant	Abolished	
	-16	NGS	Generator Mechanic/Technician	Abolished	
	-3	NGS	Electrical Technician	Abolished	
	-51				
Joint Logistics Operations Centre	-1	FS	Administrative Assistant	Converted	To NGS
	+1	NGS	Administrative Assistant	Converted	From FS
	+1	NGS	Property Management Assistant	Redeployed	From Supply Chain Section
	+1				
Regional Information and Communication Technology Services	-1	FS	Information Technology Assistant	Converted	To NPO
	+1	NPO	Information Technology Officer	Converted	From FS

Office Section Unit	*Number*	*Level*	*Functional title*	*Post action*	*From to*
	-1	FS	Radio Technician	Converted	To NPO
	+1	NPO	Telecommunications Officer	Converted	From FS
	-1	FS	Geographic Information Systems Assistant	Converted	To NGS
	+1	NGS	Geographic Information Systems Assistant	Converted	From FS
	-1	FS	Information Technology Technician/Assistant	Converted	To NGS
	+1	NGS	Information Technology Technician/Assistant	Converted	From FS
	-1	FS	Telecommunications Technician/Assistant	Converted	To NGS
	+1	NGS	Telecommunications Technician/Assistant	Converted	From FS
	-1	FS	Registry, Mail and Archives Assistant	Converted	To NGS
	+1	NGS	Registry, Mail and Archives Assistant	Converted	From FS
	-1	FS	Information Technology Assistant	Abolished	
	-1	FS	Telecommunications Assistant	Abolished	
	-1	FS	Rigger	Abolished	
	-3				
Total					
International posts	-38				
National posts	-18				
Total	**-56**				

Abbreviations: FS, Field Service; NGS, national General Service; NPO, National Professional Officer.